GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3905
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Organic Farming
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA);Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram;Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram;Kesineni Shri Srinivas;Kumar Shri P.;Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi;Meena Shri Harish Chandra;Nagar Shri Rodmal;Patel Shri Devji Mansingram;Premachandran Shri N.K.;Raju Shri Gokaraju Ganga;Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath;Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of organic crops being produced and marketing facilities available for organic crops in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to accord priority to organic farming to make agriculture a sustainable, eco-friendly and remunerative profession for the small and marginal farmers and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to educate the farmers/consumers about the benefits of organic crops/foods and harmful effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to inspect and monitor the promotion of organic farming under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the special package given/proposed to be given by the Government for development of bio-agriculture in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe dominated areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): As per the data provided by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) total certified organic produce under National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) during the year 2014-15 is 1095754.14 MT. Crop/ category wise detail is attached at Annexure −I and State-wise production details is at Annexure − II Financial assistance is provided to State Governments under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) to promote marketing facilities for organic produce under cluster as follows: (i) procuring packaging material, preparation of labels, holograms, printing and branding of organic produce @ Rs. 2500/ acre. (ii) For transportation of organic produce to market places, financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 120,000 for one cluster of 50 acre is also provided. (iii) To motivate and support marketing facilities financial assistance given @ Rs. 36330 per cluster for organizing organic fair to meet the expenses of arranging stalls, rent and labour charges, publicity material and management of event.

(b): Government is promoting organic farming across the country under various Central Sector Schemes viz. National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Oil Seed and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Network Project on Organic Farming of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) of Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) etc. for the benefit of all including small and marginal farmers. The pattern of financial assistance provided to State Governments through various schemes for promotion of organic farming is given at Annexure-III.

During the year 2015-16 under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) funds to the tune of Rs.179 crore has been released to the State Governments for promotion of Organic Farming.

(c): National Centre of Organic Farming, Ghaziabad and its six Regional Centres are conducting various extension and publicity activities like exhibitions, radio talks, TV programmes, distribution of literature on organic inputs/organic farming etc. to educate farmers. During 2015-16 (till November, 2015), 186 number of training programmes have been organized under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), which have benefitted 11546 number of farmers across the country.

The Government is popularizing Integrated Pest Management Approach to reduce use of pesticides since 1991-92 through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) established across the Country. CIPMCs conduct pest surveillance, monitor pest incidence/situation, mass produce biological agents for releasing in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. These activities are implemented through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs).

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(d): The Government has not constituted any Committee to inspect and monitor the promotion of organic farming under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) so far.

(e): Organic farming shall be promoted in such areas like hilly, tribal and also rain-fed areas where utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticide is less.

There is a provision of financial assistance in all these Schemes @ 9% and 17% for Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Castes (SC) farmers (all India average) respectively.

Besides, ICAR is also promoting organic food production in integrated farming system under Tribal Sub Plan component through cluster approach in tribal areas of Meghalaya.